



Minkégises / August 2015

# Tribal economic impact surpasses \$500 million once again

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation had a \$540 million impact in Oklahoma for 2014. CPN directly supported 2,100 jobs and paid \$78.6 million in wages and benefits. CPN indirectly supported thousands more jobs and boosted local economies by making purchases of more than \$212 million on goods and services.

Tribal economic impact has grown nearly \$500 million since 2002. CPN is the largest employer in Pottawatomie County, having created 70 percent of the new jobs locally for more than a decade.

In addition to wages and purchases,

CPN also pays taxes and gives to local charitable organizations. In 2014, CPN made \$28.9 million in tax payments and payments in lieu of taxes while contributing more than \$2.2 million to local community organizations. Oklahoma schools received \$252,000 and CPN awarded \$4.1 million in scholarships.

The impact of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation doesn't end with dollars. Tribal programs provide health and human services to many citizens, Native and non-Native alike, in its local community. CPN Health Services provided more than 160,000 physician, dental and wellness center

visits and filled 171,000 prescriptions in 2014. More than 20,000 meals were served to elderly and CPN programs helped more than 20,000 families with training, education and nutrition services. These services help to ease the burden on the State of Oklahoma, which saw a \$600 million budget shortfall in 2015.


CPN recently signed an agreement to provide 911 dispatch for all of Pottawatomie County and fields nearly 30 tribal police, increasing the safety of local communities. Pottawatomie County Rural Water District 3, operated by CPN, service area includes 60 percent of

the county and serves towns and schools throughout rural Oklahoma. Pottawatomie County Rural Water District 3 investments have allowed towns like Dale, Okla. to improve education and safety by updating infrastructure and school districts.

CPN Community Development Corporation has also contributed to the impact in the local community. Since 2003, it has made \$32.6 million in commercial loans and created or retained 1,154 jobs. CPCDC has also provided \$4 million in employee loans and 17,900 hours for financial education and business development assistance.



### Bowden retains District 13 seat



District 13 incumbent Bobbi Bowden retained her seat on Election Day at the 2015 Family Reunion Festival, while the annual Tribal budget also passed overwhelmingly.

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# Citizen Potawatomi on hand to celebrate Sacred Heart centennial

By Dr. Kelli Mosteller, Director of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center

On Sun., June 14, 2015 Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Konawa, Okla. celebrated its centennial with a Mass and potluck reception. Sacred Heart Mission and the associated school has a history in Pottawatomie County that dates back to 1876, when Fr. Isodore Robot, a French Benedictine arranged with the Potawatomi to establish a Catholic presence among them in Indian Territory.

The present-day church building was dedicated on June 11, 1915 by Bishop Rt. Rev. Theophile Meerchaert.

I was honored to attend the celebration because my family, like many Potawatomi, has a historical tie to Sacred Heart. My great-grandfather, Oliver Kelly Weld, attended Sacred Heart School along with his two sisters. He learned masonry at Sacred Heart and worked as a mason for the rest of his life.

I also wanted to attend the celebration to support three young tribal members, Anna Brimm, Abby Brimm and Jaylin Whitley, who hand drummed and sang three traditional Potawatomi songs during the celebration. These girls are members of Potawatomi families that have lived in the south Pottawatomie County area and been parishioners of Sacred Heart for many generations.



A group photo of the centennial Mass celebration at Sacred Heart.



Jaylin Whitley and Abby and Anna Brimm sing a Potawatomi song during the Mass at Sacred Heart.

## POTAWATOMI GATHERING BUS TRIP

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation will provide free bus travel to the Annual “Gathering of the Nations” hosted by the Forest County Band of Potawatomi in Carter, Wisconsin, for CPN members and their immediate families. A chartered bus will leave the Citizen Potawatomi Nation headquarters, 1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive in Shawnee, at 6:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 11, 2015. The bus will leave the Gathering on Sunday, August 16, 2015 to arrive back in Shawnee the afternoon of Monday, August 17, 2015.

A \$50 per passenger refundable deposit is required. Tribal members who attend the Gathering will be responsible for their own food, lodging, and incidentals expenses.

To reserve a seat on the bus or obtain more information, please call Cathie Hanson at 275-3121 x 1434 or 800-880-9880. You may also send an email to [chanson@potawatomi.org](mailto:chanson@potawatomi.org).





# Iranian-Mexican-Citizen Potawatomi writer finds an audience in Oklahoma City

Fueled by an oilfield boom, the Oklahoma City metropolitan area largely weathered the Great Recession that inundated other parts of the country. The recent drop in energy prices has slowed the economy somewhat, yet the city and its surrounding areas continue to grow. Where its younger residents once took flight for professional opportunities in surrounding states, Oklahoma City has become a thriving locale for homegrown residents and out-of-staters alike. One local website, [www.TheLostOgle.com](http://www.TheLostOgle.com), has captured this younger audience's attention during this time. One of its leading contributors is Marisa Mohi, a Nadeau-family descendent who bills herself as "a Gen Y Oklahoma writer with two master's degrees and a bad cake habit."

Mohi is originally from the northern Oklahoma City suburb of Edmond and describes herself as "one of two Iranian-Mexican-Citizen Potawatomi Nation people."

Her father originally came from Iran to the U.S. in the 1970s for college, while her maternal grandfather came from Mexico and maternal grandmother was Citizen Potawatomi, a descendent of Mary Nadeau.

Currently a business writing instructor at the University of Oklahoma, Mohi describes her work as teaching future professionals how to write business reports and memos.

"I basically try to teach them how to write professionally in the corporate world," she explained.

Like many of her generation who graduated college in the aftermath of the Great Recession, Mohi's path to the front of the classroom wasn't laid out before her as it appears today.

"In undergrad I did English writing and then I went to grad school, because when you get a writing degree in the middle of the recession, you immediately go to grad school," she said.

By the age of 27, she had two master's degrees, one in professional writing and another in library and information studies, the pursuit of the latter she attributes to being "a weirdo."

Her writing background has served her well in her role as a regular contributor to one of Oklahoma



Marisa Mohi

City's popular online sites, The Lost Ogle. Proudly proclaimed as an "obscure" local social blog, the site's longevity since its 2007 inception is due in large part to its satirical and sometimes biting coverage of topics relevant to younger segments of the city's population, many of whom feel neglected by the coverage in *The Oklahoman*, the state's largest newspaper. An avid reader of the site for years, in 2010 Mohi submitted a contribution poking fun of her home town.

"I don't hate Edmond, I swear," she cautioned. "It just irritates me sometimes."

The success of that initial submission turned into a permanent place at The Lost Ogle, after founder Patrick Riley asked her to become a regular contributor. Even now, as Mohi continues her fifth year of writing for the site, she admits that the reactions to her posts occasionally catch her off guard.

"I can never tell when I'm going to get good or bad feedback. I wrote a post once about a proposed third Wal-Mart being built in Norman, saying that the town didn't need it because it was going to be down the street from a different Wal-Mart. I got so many positive comments from it and all I could think was 'People can't take this seriously, I wrote that in 20 minutes!'"

Her love-hate relationship with her hometown has also proven to be a lightning rod.

"When I wrote an article about the nine grudges I would always hold against Edmond, there were well over 100 comments and 50,000 page views, and I don't even know why."

"We all love Oklahoma, but we are kind of burnt out on it at this point," she admitted. "There are so many

marketing campaigns about how great everything is, and it *is* better than it used to be. But we can't just sweep everything under the rug."

Her association with the site has also filtered into her professional life. During an interview with the marketing department of OPUBCO, the corporate entity of *The Oklahoman*, she kept being introduced as Marisa from The Lost Ogle.

"The head of the department shook my hand and told me that it was really interesting what I did, and that they were watching," said Mohi with a laugh. "I didn't get the job."

She's unconcerned about the impact of her work on her professional aspirations however.

"It has shaped my career, and I've been turned down for jobs because of my association with it. But I also don't want to work for a company that tells me what I can do in my free time. It's shaped me politically in that I'm less accepting of views that I can tell aren't sincere. We say things people see or that they don't want to see. Whether you read The Lost Ogle because you love it or you hate it, you're still reading it."

Her writing doesn't solely revolve around the website though. Along with a partner and fellow writer Kathryn Trattner, Mohi is working on the creation of a prairie gothic literature magazine called Dominion House.

"We wanted to tell some of the darker stories about Oklahoma. I think that we have a really interesting history, but we also have a really gruesome history. Whether you're talking about Native American tribes, or the Girl Scout murders or how there are six or seven Crybaby Bridge stories in the state. I think there is a lot of

creepy stuff that can be told about the Oklahoma landscape."

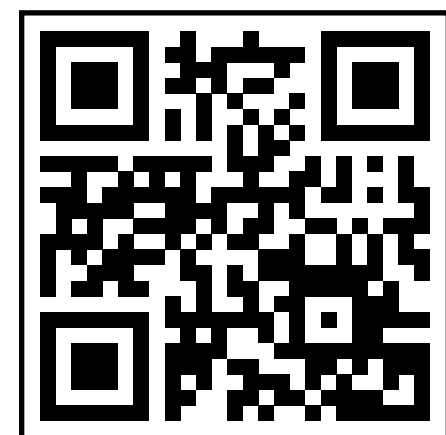
An avid short story writer "with a folder full of rejection letters," Mohi has also worked as a reporter for publications like *The Oklahoma Gazette*.

"I should probably get back into it," she admitted, "but it's not as fun. I have to be a normal person and I can't write about ghosts or make outrageous claims or whatever else I feel like writing about that day."

Like all critics, Mohi has taken heat for her views. This doesn't mean that her love for her home state or its people isn't sincere though, and she offers a cautiously optimistic look for its future despite the current uncertainty of another year of fiscal shortfalls in the state budget and a cratering energy industry.

"I think there is hope for Oklahoma, but I think it's going to get worse before it gets better," she said. "It's going to take more time and more people calling politicians and corporations out for their actions before things improve."

With voices like Mohi's there offering a counter narrative, that better future might be closer than it appears.



If you would like to learn more about Marisa Mohi, scan this QR code.

**VISIT US ONLINE!**



CITIZENPOTAWATOMINATION

@C\_P\_N CPN HOWNIKAN



# Bowden retains District 13 seat and Tribal budget passes overwhelmingly

Though officially three legislative seats were on the June 27, 2015 ballot, absentee voters and those casting in-person ballots during the 2015 CPN Family Reunion Festival only had two decisions to make.

For Oklahoma voters, the contest between incumbent Bobbi Bowden and challenger Samuel Navarre was up for grabs, while Potawatomi from all districts voted on the proposed annual Tribal budget.

In District 13, Bowden emerged the victor with 284 total votes to Navarre's 190.

"I would like to begin by congratulating Mr. Navarre on a great campaign. I admire his knowledge of our language and traditions and I look forward to continuing to learn from him in the future," said Bowden. "With a grateful and humble heart I would like to thank the members of our great Nation for their votes



Judge Phil Lujan and Court Clerk Junia Climer swear in legislators Bobbi Bowden, David Joe Barrett and Lisa Kraft.

and believing in and voting for me to continue as your District 13 legislative representative. I will do my best to continue to serve to the best of my ability. I look forward to the growth and great things that are

in store for the future of our Tribe. Please do not hesitate to contact me at [Bbowden@potawatomi.org](mailto:Bbowden@potawatomi.org) with any questions or concerns."

District 13 opponent Samuel Navarre

thanked his supporters for their encouragement throughout the race.

"*Kché migwetch* to all who participated in this election!" commented Navarre. From the voters who reached out to me, you don't know how much your support has meant, and to our winner, Bobbi Bowden, who ran a classy campaign. It has been my honor to speak for our Tribe and the needs of our People. I will continue my work to help our Tribe develop, grow, and embrace our sacred heritage, so in the words of Evita, 'Don't cry for me...the truth is I never left you.' "Here's to our success in the future!"

The annual Tribal budget was also affirmed, with a vote of 1,346 for and 105 against.

District 10 and 11 elections for incumbents David Barrett and Lisa Kraft were won by those incumbents with no opposition.



## CPN Veterans report: August 2015

By Daryl Talbot, Commander of the CPN Veterans Organization

Bozho,

Attention veterans: the Department of Veterans Affairs is announcing four new studies that will use genetic and other data from VA's Million Veteran Program, or MVP, to answer key questions on heart disease, kidney disease, and substance abuse (high priority conditions affecting veterans).

More than 390,000 veterans have enrolled so far, and is becoming the nation's largest database linking genetic, clinical, lifestyle and military exposure information. The newly funded studies are among the first to use MVP data to try to answer pressing questions on veterans' health. MVP-based studies on PTSD, schizophrenia and bipolar disorder are already underway.

There has already been an impressive amount of data collected through MVP and they are continuing to recruit more veterans in the program and building its research infrastructure through studies like these.

The new studies, involving VA researchers and university colleagues, will explore specific questions related to chronic illnesses common among veterans. The new studies include the

following:

- Cardiovascular risk factors
- Multi-substance use
- Pharmacogenomics of kidney disease
- Metabolic conditions.

For more information about MVP and VA research in general, visit [www.research.va.gov](http://www.research.va.gov).

Remember our Vietnam Veterans Banquet is 26 September at 5 p.m. at the Grand Event Center inside the Grand Casino Hotel Resort in Shawnee, Okla. You do not have to be a veteran of the Vietnam Era to attend, but the meals will be paid for (plus one guest) for the Vietnam Era Veterans. It should be a grand event honoring our Vietnam Era Veterans.

Remember the CPN Veterans Organization meets every month on the fourth Tuesday at 6 p.m. or as soon as you can get there, in the North Reunion Hall on the Potawatomi Powwow Grounds. All CPN veterans and their families are welcome. You do not need to be a member of the organization to attend these meetings, just come and visit with us and see what we are about. A meal is provided.

Migwetch.

## HEAD OVER TO FIRELAKE GIFT SHOP FOR THOSE MORNING COFFEE ACCESSORIES



We've got a whole new set of coffee mugs and custom to-go cups for your morning commute, all showing that Potawatomi pride.

Don't miss our FireLake Gifts featured item featured each week on our Facebook page.

[FACEBOOK.COM/FIRELAKEGIFTS](https://www.facebook.com/firelakegifts) • [GIFTSHOP.POTAWATOMI.ORG](http://giftshop.potawatomi.org)



# Tribal member Michelle Slavin teaching conservation in Uganda

For more than six years, a Citizen Potawatomi Tribal member has worked in Uganda to promote conservation efforts in one of Africa's fastest growing countries. Michelle Slavin spoke with the *Hownikan* about her journey from Washington State to Africa, what she is doing there and what it was like having her father, Clyde Slavin, travel over this past year to visit her and provide free optometry services to the local communities.

## Where is your hometown?

"I am originally from Vancouver, Wash. but often claim Seattle as my hometown. It's easier than explaining Vancouver or Washington."

## Where did you graduate from?

"I graduated from the University of Washington in Seattle with a BS in Wildlife Science, American University in Washington D.C. with a Masters in International Affairs and the United Nations mandated University for Peace in Costa Rica with a Masters in Natural Resources and Sustainable Development."

## You're currently UNITE's Conservation Education Trainer in Uganda, can you give a description of what you do there?

"I started as UNITE for the Environment's Conservation Education Trainer and in 2011 was promoted to director. I oversee the day-to-day management of the program on the ground in Uganda. This includes budgeting and reporting, grant writing, partnership development, communications, developing and facilitating teacher



*Slavin during a UNITE training class.*

in love with community conservation work and decided I wanted to make a career of it.

"I went back to Seattle to work and spend some much needed time with my friends and family before going to graduate school in Washington D.C. and Costa Rica. After getting my master's I began working at the Smithsonian doing science education reform work in the Gulf States but it wasn't long before I realized I really wanted to go back to working internationally. I saw an opening with the North Carolina Zoo to work with UNITE for the Environment in Uganda and I applied. I interviewed over the phone, got the job and within five weeks was on a plane heading for Uganda. Six years later, I'm still here!"

## Why is your work there important?

"Conservation is the core of our well-being, and the well-being of wildlife

living near these great ape habitats are asked to conserve the environment without being consulted or educated about why it is so important. UNITE for the Environment trains teachers to integrate conservation education into Uganda's national curriculum so that conservation becomes a daily message and habit instead of a special activity students take part in once or twice a month after school.

"During the training we also promote the use of student centered teaching methods to encourage students to think more critically about the conservation problems they face and are able to better able to address them. UNITE for the Environment doesn't stop with the teachers though, we also take students on field trips to natural areas that align with the national curriculum."

## What are some of the challenges you face in trying to educate both those in Uganda and those of us farther afield about conservation?

"I think one of the biggest challenges educating people about conservation in both Uganda and elsewhere is the behavioral change component, which is essentially the goal of conservation education. Both Ugandans and Americans need to make changes in the way they view the environment and approach conservation, but they each face very different challenges.

"In the US I think a lot of the focus is on the consumption of energy and 'stuff' while in Uganda the focus is more on deforestation, waste management and poaching. A lot of it comes back to making the connection between our actions and the environmental impact, both now and in the future.

"Evaluating these behavioral changes is also a huge challenge, it's difficult and expensive to evaluate behavioral change so people don't always do it, or don't put a lot of effort into it. UNITE for the Environment has a pretty thorough evaluation component and we are constantly assessing the best methods to use. Currently UNITE for the Environment staff are visiting teachers and students at home to see if our messages are making it out of the classroom and into the home."

## What is it like having your father Clyde Slavin come over and conduct his optometry clinic for local residents there in Uganda?

"Having chosen a rather untraditional career it's means a lot to me when my friends and family take an interest in learning about where I live and the challenges I face both personally and professionally and there is no better way to do that than coming for a visit. I'm really lucky that my dad is so adventurous and willing to donate his time to helping others in less than ideal conditions.

"After one of the UNITE for the Environment trainings last year my dad provided free vision screenings and reading glasses for the teachers and they were so happy. The majority of the teachers live very far from any town that has an optometrist and



*Clyde Slavin during one of his free optometry clinics held during a visit to Uganda in 2014.*

trainings, and developing and implementing an evaluation plan. Most people think I'm out having adventures on a daily basis but the reality is I spend about 80 percent of my time behind a desk."

## How does a Slavin from Washington State end up in Uganda?

"It wasn't a straight line, that's for sure! After university I wanted to gain work experience outside the U.S. so I joined the Peace Corps and worked in the Philippines for over two years as an environmental educator. It was there that I really fell

and ecosystems. Conservation isn't just about the environment, it's about connections between public health, politics, education, poverty, consumption, research and the environment. Uganda has one of the highest population growth rates in the world and the national parks are becoming islands surrounded by people looking to survive and provide for their families. It also happens to be home to the largest known chimpanzee population in all of Africa and nearly half the world's remaining mountain gorillas.

"More often than not, communities



*UNITE Director Michelle Slavin*

even if they lived closer it's unlikely they could afford to go see one. These teachers are my heroes—they go above and beyond what they are required to do so being able to see my dad helping them out was amazing."

*If you would like to learn more about Michelle Slavin's work with UNITE, please visit their website [tinyurl.com/UNITEFTE](http://tinyurl.com/UNITEFTE) or follow them on Facebook (U.N.I.T.E. for the Environment), Twitter (@NCZooUNITE) or Instagram (UNITE4theEnvironment).*



# Behavioral Health Services offering support for those suffering from grief

The loss of a loved one can be a devastating experience, and in many instances can result in a normal time of grieving. Yet for some, that time of mourning may be prolonged and difficult to move past. Assistance in working through these feelings to a sense of normalcy is available through the CPN Health Services Behavioral Health Clinic. The *Hownikan* spoke with Dr. Kenneth Bond about a new support group offering treatment for those suffering from grief.

**Tell us a little bit about grief support in terms of the differences between it and something like depression?**

“A treatment approach for depression typically attempts to focus on unhealthy or distorted thinking processes that people engage in that contribute to depression. A therapist tries to identify how the person’s thinking is flawed and correct those flaws to alleviate depression.

“In grief, the depression is not the result of distorted thinking but is instead the natural response to significant loss. A grief support group offers the individual a means to address their hurt and pain in a supportive and encouraging environment.”

**What is this new grief support group’s purpose in terms of what it will do and address?**

“Grieving the loss of a loved one is an incredibly painful experience. It is natural for people to isolate for a time



*To join the support group contact CPN Behavioral Health Services at 405-214-5101.*

and withdraw from pain and hurt. Sometimes when people experience loss, they can get stuck in unhealthy coping responses such as isolating or shutting down emotionally.

“The most powerful function of a grief support group is that it offers us a place where we can not only feel safe and supported to acknowledge and deal openly with hurt, but also to re-connect to others in emotionally fulfilling ways. A grief support group also should provide individuals with information that explains the difficult stages of the grieving process. This helps people to understand not only where they are in the process, but can

give them hope that things will get better.”

**What are some of the signs that individuals should look for in themselves or loved ones who might benefit from joining this grief support group?**

“Depression is actually a normal and even necessary response to loss. There is no fixed time limit to how long grief is ‘supposed’ to last. A good rule of thumb for considering reaching out for any kind of therapeutic support is whether or not emotional issues are so severe or persistent that they are interfering with the person continuing with their

regular daily activities. Are anger, guilt, sleep, or socializing problems continuing to limit your ability to move back out into the world?”

**Who is eligible or who might be best served by attending this group?**

“The Grief Support Group is available for all Tribal members eligible for health services or spouses of Tribal members. It meets every Monday at 4 p.m. at the Behavioral Health Clinic at 26 Father Joe Murphy Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801. If people would like to learn more, please call CPN Behavioral Health Services at 405-214-5101.”

## McLoud preparing for new FireLake Express Grocery opening



**FIRELAKE  
EXPRESS GROCERY**

FireLake Express Grocery in McLoud, Okla. is tentatively scheduled to open late 2015 or early 2016. The new store will be approximately 25,000 square feet, of that square footage nearly 15,000 being the sales floor.

This store will be smaller than FireLake Discount Foods, though slightly larger than FireLake Express Grocery in Tecumseh. FireLake Express McLoud will offer many of the same items and more variety than any store in the area. This location will offer fuel, a smoke shop, a complete selection

of grocery items including a meat market, produce section, bakery and a deli.

FireLake will create 100 new jobs with excellent pay and benefits while improving the quality of life for residents in the McLoud area by providing access to a variety of food options. This store will help create other development in the area and bring more businesses to the city. CPN is proud to serve the community and provide customers an exceptional shopping experience with superior service, quality products and value prices.



*The new store is located just north of I-40 on McLoud Road.*



**FireLake Express Grocery in McLoud, Okla. will tentatively open in late 2015 or early 2016.**



# Imagination Playground inspires all ages

Today, while more American youth seem to be captivated by the latest technological advancement than the neighborhood playground, one company is working to change that perception. National non-profit company, KaBOOM!, focuses on providing youth a balanced and active childhood. The FireLodge Tribal Youth program received one of KaBOOM!'s Imagination Playgrounds through a donation from Blue Cross and Blue Shield and KaBOOM!

According to the company's website, Imagination Playground provides an innovative play opportunity that can be instantly activated through an innovative design in play equipment that encourages creativity, communication, and collaboration. It's custom-designed, oversized blue foam parts provide a changing array of elements that allow youth to turn their playground into a space to be built according to what they imagine.

"The kids have really embraced using the Imagination Playground," said Darin Greene Coordinator for FireLodge Tribal Youth. "We have 12 to 18 year olds here and we weren't sure how much it was going to be used. I'm just really thankful we got it because it has really been a great thing for the kids here." Academic Support Specialist for the P.L.A.C.E., Ben McAlister, has found different uses for the Tribal youth to use the Imagination Playground in



*Donovan Burchem dodges behind the Imagination Playground.*

their weekly activities.

"We use the Imagination Playground for an assortment of team building exercises," said McAlister. "We like to see who can build the most elaborate car, staircase, really anything they come up with we try and all make it together. We assumed that it was only going to be used by the youth but the high school kids

have really found ways to use it as well."

Vice-President for the FireLodge Youth Council, Duncan Hoffman, immediately saw it as a great and exciting experience to do something new with his friends.

"Today we created an obstacle course and we put blindfolds on one person

and their partner helped guide them through the course by telling them where to step," said Hoffman. "We use the Imagination Playground for team building exercises, friendly competitions and of course fun."

For more information on the KaBOOM! Imagination Playground please visit their webpage at [www.kaboom.org](http://www.kaboom.org).

## FireLodge Tribal Youth update: August 2015

By Darin Greene, Coordinator

FireLodge Tribal Youth

We survived an action filled summer. The Tribal youth will be attending an end of year trip to Arlington, Texas where they visit Six Flags over Texas and Hurricane Harbor. They'll also take a tour of the Dallas Cowboys football facilities.

With summer ending and school beginning though, it's down to business.

To get the school year off right, each Tribal youth will meet with our staff to put together a game plan for academic and personal success. Called "My Success Plan," it will help the youth identify their needs from staff and set some long term goals. It's based off a three part focus:

- Intellectual and academics
- Social and emotional
- Physical and health

One of the new aspects of the FireLodge program is that Tribal youth will be asked to step up more in helping in their communities. Community service hours have increased to 40 hours, where as last



*Dakota Clock and Hosea Ramirez discuss the upcoming school year over basketball and breakfast.*

year it was only 20.

The Tribal youth start their community service hours by working the FireLake Arena Championship Boxing show by helping usher and keeping the arena clean.

Each month there is an opportunity to earn community service points for the youth. They will also join up with the local Salvation Army Boys

and Girls Club and The Oklahoma Department of Human Services to help assemble back-to-school backpacks for other students in need this year.

Our Tribal youth young ladies held a cheer camp, which was a big success, each camper was taught several cheers and a dance.

We'll also be hosting a Back-to-

School Bash, which involves a number of games and activities, including the ever popular extreme inflatables, free food and refreshments.

If you would like to learn more about FireLodge Tribal Youth Program or the P.L.A.C.E., please contact me at [dgreene@potawatomi.org](mailto:dgreene@potawatomi.org).



# Heupel youth camp and golf tournament mark another impressive year of participation at CPN

Marking a decade of partnership with Citizen Potawatomi Nation, the Day of Champions Football Camp expanded its offerings this year to include a wider range of participants. For the first time, a dual-sport camp was held with football instruction for boys and softball instruction for girls.

“The camp was a *huge* success this year,” commented Sarah Lawerance, CPN Fitness Instructor and coordinator of the camps. “We had 150 campers ranging in age from 5-13, with 75 percent of those being Native American.”

The camp was hosted by Citizen Potawatomi Nation and Day of Champions Inc., which was founded by former collegiate football coach Ken Heupel and son, Josh, the 2000 national champion from the University of Oklahoma and current offensive coordinator at Utah State University.

Last year around 90 campers participated, and with each year the numbers continue to grow. The first day of camp consists of drills, instruction and small games led by collegiate and professional coaches.



*Coach Jake Breske leads the softball instruction, a first for the Day of Champions Camp.*

On day two, campers are allowed to bring a parent or guardian to participate with them in the day’s drills. Sixty adults participated this year, including 10 members of the 2015 Potawatomi Leadership Program class.

Another facet of the #14 Foundation partnership with CPN is the annual golf tournament at FireLake Golf Course. According to Lawerance, the tournament is the only fundraiser the foundation undertakes specific to

leadership development. “It’s vital to the work that is done in meeting the needs of the children the foundation serves,” explained Lawerance.

The funds raised from the tournament help pay for scholarships for children to attend camps focused on academic improvement, including math and science camps and academic year tutoring.

“We hold the tournament at FireLake Golf Course because of the great relationship between the foundation and the Citizen Potawatomi Nation,” said Lawerance. “Josh Heupel’s 14 Foundation and CPN have a shared vision of serving the needs of Oklahoma’s youth.”

Each year a celebrity golfer plays a hole with each of the 38 teams signed up for the tournament this year. This year two celebrities graced the tournament. University of Oklahoma alum and current fullback for the San Francisco 49ers Trey Millard took to the links, while former LPGA tour member Anya Alvarez took part in the tournament with Team Joe Dorman.

If you would like to learn more about the #14 Foundation or the Day of Champions Football and Softball Camps, please contact Sarah Lawerance at [14foundationgolf@gmail.com](mailto:14foundationgolf@gmail.com). If you would like to learn more about hosting a fundraising tournament or event at FireLake Golf Course or FireLake Ballfields, please visit their websites at [www.FireLakeGolf.com](http://www.FireLakeGolf.com) or [www.TheBallfieldsatFireLake.com](http://www.TheBallfieldsatFireLake.com).

## A look into the past: David Pumunkatuc Johnson at Carlisle Indian School

In another look into the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center archives, we examine a piece of history from the Indian School era of the late nineteenth and earlier twentieth centuries. This “footlocker” was given to Tribal member David P. Johnson upon his arrival at Carlisle Indian Industrial School in 1899. Johnson is pictured here with friends during his time at Carlisle.



*Read more about the history of this famous Indian school in an article originally printed in the March 2013 Hownikan.*

Carlisle Indian Industrial School was an Indian boarding school in Carlisle, Penn. One of the first of its kind, it was founded by Captain Richard Henry Pratt at an abandoned military post. The so-called ‘noble experiment’ was a failed attempt to forcibly assimilate Native American children into white civilization.

One of the main principles of the school, as Captain Pratt famously

said, was to “Kill the Indian and save the man.”

Because of Pratt’s “success” at shaping the Indian’s identity, it later spawned 26 other Indian boarding schools across the country and quickly became a part of U.S. Indian policy. As part of the recruiting process, Pratt would convince the parents of the Indian children that the reason why the white men were taking their land was because Indians were not educated enough.

In the beginning, parents were voluntarily allowing their children go. However, over time, parents would coerced and often forced to send their children to Carlisle. After the new recruits arrived at the school, the Indian children would take before and after pictures, primarily to show the progress of the school and its success at assimilating the children.

Carlisle was modeled on the military lifestyle with Indian boys wearing uniforms and girls Victorian style dresses. They marched to and from class and the dining halls. The boys and girls were organized into companies with officers who took charge of drill while discipline at the school was strictly enforced.

Carlisle was structured with academics for one half of the day and instruction in trades the other half. In the summer months, rather than



*Unknown, David P. Johnson (CPN), Louis Tromblo and Ed Penseau at Carlisle Indian School.*

letting the children go back to the reservations, the school implemented what was known as an ‘outing system’, where the students would work for a non-Indian family for the summer and return back to Carlisle to begin the new school year.

This was yet another part of the detribalization process. By the time Carlisle closed in 1918, over 10,000 Indian children had gone through its doors. The results of this era presented ever-lasting, negative effects on the Indian student’s sense of cultural identity. Subsequently, the

oppression of their Indian identities often could not be reversed and they ultimately entered a world outside of Carlisle confused and lacking self-worth. Although the negative experiences among those Native Americans who attended Carlisle often outweighed the good, Carlisle, today is now famously associated with Olympic great and Citizen Potawatomi member, Jim Thorpe.

The United States Army War College now occupies the site of the former Indian boarding school.



# Wadase update: August 2015

January 23, 2015 was the last positive sighting of Wadasé Zhabwé at the aviary. However that's not to say she hasn't been in the area. On several occasions she has roosted overnight in an old, favorite spot of hers where Squirrel Creek meets the North Canadian River just north of the aviary. She has even flown over the aviary half a dozen times, but we did not see her. After studying the telemetry it is easy to understand why, because she was flying 2,000 feet in the air or higher when she passed over. Wadasé had returned to the Salt Fork of the Arkansas River just south of Ponca City, just as she did this time last year. She didn't stay long though, with the weather possibly being a contributing factor.

Since the opening of the aviary in 2012, the surrounding landscape has never been so lush and green, we have the extraordinary rainfall this spring to thank for that bounty. This May we received as much rain in a month as we should for an entire year. Three times this year we have seen the aviary surrounded by flood waters. While many people in Oklahoma and surrounding states had devastating damage, we were fortunate and did not take on water in any of the buildings or enclosures, although it was closer than we would have liked. During that flooding, we felt positive we would see Wadasé return to the aviary for food as a result of the overflowing rivers and creeks. She made her way back from the Salt Fork to an area along the North Canadian River just south of Lake Arcadia near Spencer, Okla. just 30 miles from the aviary. But each flood came and went without a sighting. Anxiously checking telemetry as soon as it became available we learned she was hunting in the flooded fields adjacent the river. From the last storm of this winter season to the worst flooding she's experienced since her release, she continues to meet each challenge with no more support than our prayers. After this year's molt we suspect she will have a mostly white head and tail and her beak should have changed from dark brown to yellow along with her eyes. She is nearly mature, as a sub-adult, over the next two years she will continue to learn the best places to hunt and hone her skills. By fall next year she could be looking for a potential mate. We are in "double bonus time" with her telemetry. Initially, we were told any data we received from the GPS backpack after a year was considered a bonus and now we are headed into year three with consistent telemetry. We can only hope the cotton stitching on the thin backpack straps lasts as long as the GPS unit itself. "Quadruple bonus time" would hopefully take us into her first nesting season. But for now we continue to check telemetry and note patterns as they emerge each season.



*Another guest arrived to see what was for breakfast.*

Knowing Wadasé is in the vicinity we continue to keep an eye out for her on the property. One early morning, just after sunrise, watering the plants out in front of the aviary, we were startled as we looked up to find a large juvenile bald eagle perched on the upright posts of the small

was dark, much like Wadasé was when she first arrived at the aviary. Quickly and as calmly as we could, we made our way to the aviary office to peek out the window of the small enclosure but she was gone. However, she hadn't gone far; we spotted her on Wadasé's favorite



*Dark eyes, nearly black beak and very dark plumage overall indicate a fledgling eagle likely born this year.*

enclosure. We had almost walked right underneath her. How long had she been sitting there watching us?

The first thing we thought was that it was Wadasé. But this bald eagle

perch out front. Once we were able to get a better look at her we were positive that she is a fledgling from this year's nesting eagles, probably little more than five months old. After some discussion and time spent



*After recovering her lunch the imposter took a bath in water left from the previous night's rains.*

observing her we agreed that we should offer her food on Wadasé's platform. We wanted to assess her hunting ability and be sure that she was not struggling to find food and that she wasn't injured. Once we had placed food on the platform it wasn't long before she made a flyby to see what was on the platform. She was wary, but curious. After several flybys she landed. She ate on the platform and never tried to carry food away. She hasn't yet mastered taking food in flight or even carrying her catch back to a high perch to eat. Many of her actions are reminiscent of Wadasé's behavior when she was first released. Like Wadasé she seemed to find comfort in the surroundings of the aviary pasture, here with the other eagles she felt at ease. After eating she even hopped down and walked over to an area still full of water from the previous day's rain and bathed. She spent several hours perched on both enclosures and like Wadasé, she seemed to be happy when she could land and get the other eagles to vocalize in response to her antics.

The rest of the day she stayed close, perched in one of the big pecan trees on the property. The second morning she returned just as she had the first day. The third morning she had brought company. It appeared to be a nest mate, a smaller male, who was much more wary of our presence around the aviary. He never came to the platform to eat and we never spotted him after midday. Several times throughout the day she would leave the big pecan and take several long flights around the aviary and follow the creek to the river and return. She continued this for a week and this morning as we finish up this article, we have yet to see her. Seeing her was not only a great reminder of how fortunate we were to spend time with Wadasé after her release but how thankful we are for Wadasé's telemetry. Today we only know the young eagle wasn't here at sunrise. We hope that she only needed the support of a few meals and continues to thrive, as Wadasé has, on her own. We were taught that guests should always feel welcome and company should never leave hungry. Hopefully we got that right.

As always we encourage you to keep your eyes out for Wadasé. To follow her movements with us you can visit [www.arcgis.com/home](http://www.arcgis.com/home) and search for "Potawatomi eagle." Send your encounters with Wadasé or any other eagles in Oklahoma or wherever you may be to [Jennifer.randell@potawatomi.org](mailto:Jennifer.randell@potawatomi.org). For more information or to read previous updates please visit [www.potawatomi.org](http://www.potawatomi.org) and search the site for Wadase or visit <http://www.potawatomi.org/about-wadase>



# 2015 Family Reunion Festival



*Co-winner of 'Youngest' at General Council, Sadie Painter, held here by Tribal Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett.*



*'Travelled Furthest', Lisa Weldfeld (left) of San Diego, Calif.*



*'Wisest' at General Council, George Hamilton, at 98 years old.*



*Randy Schlachtun, Sam James and Jayson Lambert*



*London Marshall works on a project.*



*Eddie Moore makes a move during the checkers tournament.*



*Emelia Zientek, held by Vice-Chairman Capps, was co-winner of 'Youngest' at General Council.*



*Youth pool champion Triston Hargrove lines up a shot.*



*Tribal members face off in the opening rounds of the chess tournament.*



*Tribal Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett and Christyn Williams.*



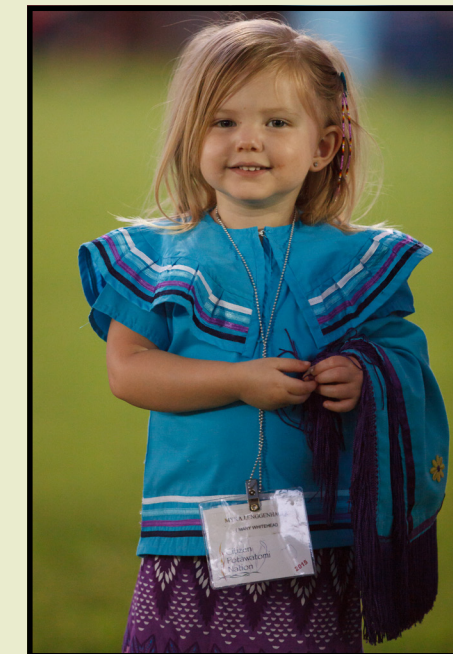
*Emmaline Barrett during Grand Entry.*



*Cultural Activities Coordinator Michael Logan leads a beading instruction at the CPN Cultural Heritage Center.*



*Honored Veteran at Grand Entry Don Anderson, USAF and Oklahoma Air National Guard (Ret.)*



*Myka Lenggenhager cracks a smile during the powwow.*



*James Lambert dances during the powwow.*



*Women's Dance Champion Tesia Zientek with Tribal Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett.*



*John Weddle and Dakota LeClaire combine to make a catch more exciting during softball.*



*Kiersten Hoots holding Willow Brooke Rutledge during Grand Entry.*



*Family stand together during Grand Entry.*



# Obama highlights efforts to improve lives of Native Americans during visit to Indian Country

By Kristi Eaton

Saying he couldn’t make up for broken treaties or years of broken promises to Native Americans, President Barack Obama traveled to Indian Country last week to meet with tribal members and announce a new initiative meant to close the digital divide among low-income residents.

Obama, who spoke at Durant High School in the Choctaw Nation, announced ConnectHome, a program to ensure that everyone in American has access to high-speed broadband Internet. ConnectHome builds upon an earlier initiative Connect ED that is connecting 99 percent of K-12 students to high-speed Internet access in their classrooms and libraries over the next five years.

The Choctaw Nation is one of the communities selected for the ConnectHome pilot program, which is expected to reach more than 275,000 low-income homes, including 200,000 children, according to the administration.

“While high-speed Internet access is a given, it’s assumed for millions of Americans, it’s still out of reach for too many people -- especially in low-income and rural communities,” Obama said, noting that more than 90 percent of households headed by a college graduate use the Internet but fewer than half of households with less than a high school education are plugged into the Internet.

A child’s ability to succeed should not be based on where he or she lives or how much money their parents’ make, Obama said.

“That’s not who we are as a country,” he said. “We’ve got a different standard. We’re a people who believe we should be able to go as far as our talents and hard work will take us. And just because you don’t have



President Barack Obama speaks at the Choctaw Nation.  
(Photo courtesy Choctaw Nation.)

money in your household to buy fancy technology, that should not be an obstacle.”

In addition to the Choctaw Nation, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development selected the following cities for ConnectHome: Albany, Georgia; Atlanta; Baltimore; Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Boston; Camden, New Jersey; Cleveland; Denver; Durham, North Carolina; Fresno, California; Kansas City, Missouri; Little Rock, Arkansas; Los Angeles; Macon, Georgia; Memphis, Tennessee; Meriden, Connecticut; Nashville, Tennessee; New Orleans; New York; Newark, New Jersey; Philadelphia; Rockford, Illinois; San Antonio; Seattle; Springfield, Massachusetts; Tampa, Florida; and the District of Columbia.

Obama started his speech by highlighting some of the work he has done with tribes across the U.S., including hosting the annual Tribal Nations Conference in Washington D.C. and the first-ever Tribal Youth Gathering, which more than 1,000 young people from 230 tribes attended earlier in July.

“Michelle and I believe we’ve got a special obligation to make sure that tribal youth have every opportunity to achieve their potential not just for the benefit of themselves and their communities, but for our entire nation; that all of you young people have a chance to succeed not by leaving your communities, but by coming back and investing in your communities, and that you have a whole range of options that can lift us all up,” he said.

Obama also noted that strengthening the sovereignty of tribal nations has been key to the nation-to-nation partnerships.

“We can’t reverse centuries of history -- broken treaties, broken promises. But I did believe that we could come together as partners and forge a new path based on trust and respect. And that’s what we’ve tried to do,” he said, listing several examples: giving increased power to tribal courts and police, restoring hundreds of thousands of acres of tribal trust lands, reauthorizing the Indian Health Care Improvement Act and moving forward with renewable energy projects in Indian Country.

In Oklahoma, the administration earlier selected the Choctaw Nation as the first tribal community to be declared a “promise zone,” which allows for tax incentives and competitive advantages when applying for federal grants, among other things.

Choctaw Nation Chief Gary Batton said Obama has shown he’s a great partner for Indian Country and is a leader who is governing in a way “that heals wounds.”

Chelbie Turtle was among several Native youth who traveled to Durant to hear the president’s speech. The 14-year-old Turtle, who is a member of the Cherokee Nation and the current Jr. Miss Cherokee, called Obama’s speech “inspiring.” Turtle said she has not had issues with accessing high-speed Internet but knows people who have. She said her friend used to come to her family’s house in order to sit in the driveway and use wifi because the signal was stronger. “Having access to wifi is almost a necessity. Technology is important,” said Turtle, who had just returned from the Tribal Youth Gathering in Washington D.C.

Before his speech at the Choctaw Nation, Obama met with several Native youth from tribes across Oklahoma to learn about their backgrounds and give them the opportunity to ask him questions.

This was Obama’s second trip to Indian Country. Last summer, he and Michelle Obama traveled to the Standing Rock Sioux Indian Reservation in North Dakota. The trip to the Choctaw Nation was part of a two-day trip to Oklahoma. He also toured the El Reno Federal Correctional Institute outside of Oklahoma City, becoming the first sitting president to visit a federal prison.

## Hownikan wins several awards at Native American journalism conference

The Native American Journalists Association is dedicated to supporting Native American journalism and recently held their annual awards ceremony for excellence in reporting in Indian Country. In the category of tribal publications with more than 8,000 readers, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s Tribal newspaper, the *Hownikan*, brought home seven awards.

Communications Coordinator Bo Apitz submitted several entries for the best feature photo and swept the category, winning first, second and third place.

Assistant Director of Public Information, John VanPool, won

third place for his profile of CPN District Court Judge Phil Lujan in the best feature story in print and online publications.

The *Hownikan* also won several awards in the Division III category:

- Second Place – Best Digital Publication
- Second Place – General Excellence Print
- Third Place – Best Layout Print

To see the full list of award winners please visit [www.naja.com/news/2014-native-media-awards/associate-category](http://www.naja.com/news/2014-native-media-awards/associate-category).



Bo Apitz’s first place winning photograph of Moniece Venegas.



## CPN Legislative update: June 2015

With a full audience comprised of Tribal employees and Tribal members, as well as the 2015 class of the Potawatomi Leadership Program, the CPN Legislature met for the first meeting of the 2015-16 legislative session.

Derek Valdo, CEO of AMERIND Risk Management made a presentation to the legislature, before a resolution approving a memorandum of understanding between CPN and AMERIND Risk Management Corporation was approved by a unanimous vote. The MOU will offer property and casualty insurance products to persons residing within the former reservation boundaries of the Tribe.

The CPN Self-Governance Department also made a presentation on the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Indian Health Service's funding agreements and the status of recent grant applications made by the department.

According to the report, in the 2014 Fiscal Year CPN received full funding for contract support costs from the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service, while the CPN Tribal Court and Employment and Training Program also received small one-time increases as well.



*The 2014-15 CPN Legislature.*

While contract health services and Tribal environmental health projects did receive funding increases, a five percent cut in base funding for these two programs was lost due to the 2013 sequestration implemented by Congress. These funds will never be restored.

Overall, 32 of the 40 Tribal Self-Governance Office's 2014 Fiscal Year applications were awarded for a total of \$13.9 million, a 25 percent increase in the number of applications submitted and a 15 percent increase compared to the number applied for and awarded in the previous fiscal

year.

A resolution accepting a proposed settlement between CPN and Glaxo-Smith-Kline, LLC was also approved with 16 in favor and none opposed.

Legislators also approved CPN's membership into the United Nations of Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas, including the confirmation of delegates and payment of membership dues.

In Potawatomi Gathering news, the legislature approved transportation costs for Tribal members attending

the twenty second annual gathering of the Potawatomi Nations hosted by the Forest County Potawatomi in Carter, Wisc. In addition to transportation costs, the resolution also appropriates monetary support for the host nation or a scholarship fund.

In membership news, the legislators approved a voluntary relinquishment of Tribal citizenship by Gabrielle Kay Nuckolls.

If you would like to learn more about the CPN Legislature or watch the recordings of the meetings, please visit [www.potawatomi.org/government/legislature](http://www.potawatomi.org/government/legislature)



*To learn more about your legislature scan this QR Code.*

## Lankford-backed bill seeks to clarify tribal sovereignty from NLRB overreach

Challenges to tribal sovereignty come in many shapes and sizes at the local, state and federal level. A recent trend in Indian Country has been jurisdictional claims from the Washington D.C.-based National Labor Relations Board. Since 2004, the NLRB has claimed it has jurisdiction on tribal commercial enterprises, despite nearly 70 years of precedent. Court cases throughout the U.S. have come up with different opinions on the matter, and barring Congressional action, the issue looks likely to end up in the docket of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Spurred on by calls from tribes around the country, a number of senators with large tribal constituencies are taking action. The Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act of 2015 sets the specific parameters for the NLRB when it comes to Indian Country by amending section two of the National Labor Relations Act. It contains a specific subsection concerning the lands formerly known as reservations for Oklahoma tribes.

Both Oklahoma senators supported the bill, which passed the Senate Indian Affairs Committee in June 2015. Senator James Lankford, a co-sponsor, and former Congressional representative for the area in which Citizen Potawatomi Nation is located, noted the bill's importance in upholding the principle of tribal sovereignty.

"NLRB's decision to expand their jurisdiction to include tribal employees under the National Labor Relations Act undermines tribal sovereignty and threatens continued economic development throughout Oklahoma," wrote Senator Lankford. "S. 248 will reaffirm a tribal exemption to NLRB jurisdiction, an exemption already shared by states and the federal government and given in practice to tribes for over 60 years. I'm glad to co-sponsor this bill to remove burdensome red tape that hinders economic growth for Oklahomans."

According to the NLRB, the board has statutory jurisdiction over private sector employers whose activity in interstate commerce exceeds a minimum level. Specifically with regards to Indian tribes, the NLRB asserts jurisdiction over commercial enterprises *even* if they are located on tribal land.

However, according to an article in The National Law Review, the NLRB never assumed this jurisdictional overreach in the nearly 70 years since its creation under the 1935 Wagner Act. In 2004 though, the NLRB ruled that *it did* have jurisdiction over tribal-owned commercial enterprises, even those on trust land, in a case brought by a California hotel and restaurant workers union against the San Manuel Casino, owned and operated by the San Manuel Band of



*Senator James Lankford*

Mission Indians.

In 2014, the NLRB has requested that the Chickasaw Nation recognize the board's jurisdiction in tribal casinos in Oklahoma through the U.S. Tenth Circuit Court, which the tribe opposed citing the importance of gaming revenues to its sovereign duties. The NLRB does not assert jurisdiction over enterprises that carry out traditional and tribal government functions. In June 2015, the NLRB itself ruled the tribe's casino workers were exempt from the federal agencies protections,

citing the 1830 Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek between the U.S. and Chickasaw Nation as having strong pro-sovereignty language. Just days later though, the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court ruled that the NLRB did have jurisdiction over tribal gaming enterprises in a case bought by the board against the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan. The decision's justification has been used in similar cases in the Second, Seventh, Ninth and Eleventh Circuit Courts, though the decisions handed down by the Tenth and Eighth Circuit Courts rejected this position. In the Eighth Circuit's ruling, the court specifically held that laws of general applicability are not applied to tribes save a specific congressional intent to make it so.

In pushing for a legislative fix, such as Senator Lankford has done, the Congress appears to be moving to take the issue completely out of the courts' hands.

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CPN HOWNIKAN





Tribal Chairman - John “Rocky” Barrett

Bozho, Nikan, (Hello, my friend),

We are all grateful to the Nation’s employees who worked so hard this year at the Heritage Festival. Along with a helping hand from the Creator who gave us beautiful and cool (for the last week in June) weather, their efforts made for one of the best Festivals ever. The food was good, the drumming and dancing was fun, and the games competitive and engrossing. A person can’t ask for much more. If you missed it this time, be sure to come next year.

Our General Council Meeting went well, with WWII fighter pilot George Hamilton honored as our “wisest” Citizen Potawatomi in attendance. At 99 years old, Major Hamilton is active, articulate, mobile and a joy to meet. Our youngest was Amelia Zientek, a beautiful little girl less than five months old who kept my record intact for not crying when I held her for pictures. Another young winner was

Sadie Painter, also under one year of age. The young woman who traveled the longest distance to come to General Council, Lisa Weldfelt, was presented with a Pendleton travel bag, which allows me to tell the same joke each year that we “furnish a bag” for the winner to assist in taking home their casino prize money. See their photos on page 10 and 11.

The primary topic of our presentations on the state of our Tribal nation was a positive mixture of good news and some negative expressions of growing concern over the racist and aggressive behavior of State of Oklahoma officials towards the Citizen Potawatomi, originating with Steven Mullins, Chief Counsel for Governor Mary Fallin’s office.

The financial condition of our Tribe continues to be very good with earnings yielding a 14 percent growth of Tribal assets and a six percent growth in profits from our Tribal businesses. First National Bank continues its record of excellent growth and has the highest safety and soundness ratings from federal banking regulators. The CPN continued its record of Awards of Excellence in Reporting from the National Association of Public Accountants. The CPN Community Development



Tribal Chairman John “Rocky” Barrett and George Hamilton in 2014.

Corporation had record growth this year with lending capital nearing \$14 million.

On the disappointing side, the State of Oklahoma and the local municipality, Shawnee, continued their wasteful and illegal pursuit of money through the courts in trying to force the Tribe to be its tax collector. Using despicable tactics, Steve Mullins is trying to get the Oklahoma Tax Commission to revoke our tax number in order to force the revocation of the Grand Casino liquor license as punishment for refusing to collect state taxes from non-Potawatomi customers at all of our businesses – a demand rejected by the federal courts and in violation of federal law.

The state and the Tribe continue to waste money, now nearing \$1 million, on this disgusting, greedy and racist conflict. It is most damaging in creating doubt and risk, which hurts our growth and progress. Given the history of the governor’s behavior towards the 39 tribes in the state, we will have to be very careful.

In that light, the Nation is studying new and more secure ways to earn revenue to provide Tribal services, which cannot be attacked by the State of Oklahoma. One of these is electrical generation, specifically wind power. Since we consume more than five megawatts of power each day in our business and government uses, we would be our

own best customer. Wind power also is a fit with our investment in geothermal heating and cooling, which has yielded great savings for us these past five years.

Congratulations to Representative Bobby Bowden in her bid for reelection to the Tribal Legislature. Congratulations are also due to Representative Lisa Kraft and Representative David Barrett for their unopposed reelection.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as Tribal Chairman.

Sincerely,

John “Rocky” Barrett  
Keweoge  
“He Leads Then Home”  
Tribal Chairman



Vice-Chairman - Linda Capps

and gentlemen we have working as members of that organization! I am fortunate to personally know the officers of the group. I know them not only by name and handshake, but I know most of their family members as well. I am proud that they represent all the veterans of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation throughout the country. Whenever the executive team of the legislature travels to other states, we often encourage veterans of our Nation to join the organization regardless of where they live.

The officers of the CPN Veterans Organization are Daryl Talbot, Commander; Rowdy Yates, Vice-Commander; Bill Wano, Secretary; and David Barrett, Treasurer. These gentlemen are responsible for the up-coming Vietnam Veterans Banquet. No doubt, they will incorporate

the assistance of the other organization members and their spouses in preparation for the banquet. September 26 falls on a Saturday, and the event will be held at the Grand Event Center in the Grand Casino Hotel Resort. What an exciting occasion it will be!

Potawatomi author Robert Sander will be the guest speaker at the banquet. A descendant of the Navarre family, he was a commissioned officer in the famed 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division. His book published by the University of Oklahoma Press in 2014, “Invasion of Laos, 1971: Lam Son 719” is now in its third printing. Navarre family members all across the country are extremely proud of Robert.

Other attractions at the banquet will be the Potawatomi women’s drum

group, Dewegen Kwek. There will also be a segment for individual recognition of several veterans who will be awarded special gifts. Of course, there will be a gift for all the Vietnam Veterans that are in attendance. The most important aspect of the entire evening will be the veterans and their families having some precious time together to reflect and celebrate the significant years from August 5, 1964 to May 7, 1975. I know that I speak for thousands of our Tribal members when I say that I am grateful to all of our veterans for their service to the United States of America. I believe this particular banquet will be one that will bring not only deep appreciation for the Vietnam Veterans, but also for those veterans who have prepared for the special event.

A hardy “thank you” in advance goes out to

the officers of the CPN Veterans Organization. In addition, I know that Paul VanRaamsdonk, Director of the Grand Hotel and Food and Beverage Services worked closely with David Barrett, District 10 CPN Legislator for Oklahoma and Treasurer of the CPN Veterans Organization to make the event happen.

In closing, I cherish the opportunity to serve as CPN Vice-Chairman. I am proud of all our tribal members and especially those who served their country.

Migwetch,  
Linda Capps  
405-275-3121 office  
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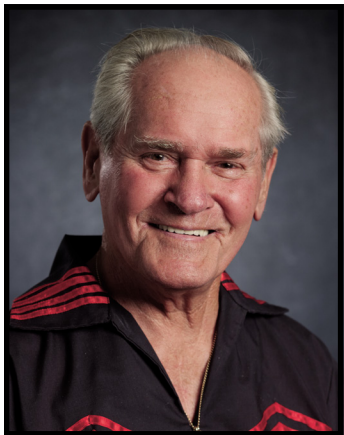
The July Hownikan announced and adequately covered the Vietnam Veteran Banquet taking place on September 26, 2015. Hopefully, my article will be an enrichment of the information that has already been published. I suppose you can consider it my “two cents worth” on the preparations that are in progress.

First, I would like to acknowledge my support of the CPN Veterans Organization, which was founded January 27, 2007. What fine ladies

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## District 1 - Roy Slavin

teach attendees quill earring making, shawl making and fringing, beadwork, appliqué, moccasin making, and include Potawatomi language immersion classes.

If you want to stay active, a 5k walk takes place Saturday morning and the swimming pool and wellness center is open. This is just a small sample of all the activities because it would take another page or two to list everything. These are mostly physical or skill-based activities, but if your interests are less physical, there is also a talking circle.

I had the honor and privilege of naming four year old twins during this Festival. The twins are the grand children of my younger brother, William "Bill" Slavin who walked on after enduring a heart transplant.

According to Potawatomi folklore, the Creator knows where you are and what you are doing but until you



*Roy naming Kinsley and Kyson while their mother and proud grandparents look on.*

receive your Potawatomi name he cannot see your face. With the help of Justin Neely our language director, I chose the names Nagishek (Center of the sky) for Kyson and Nagishgokwe (center of the sky woman) for Kinsley.

These names seemed appropriate since I am sure they are the center of the

universe for their mother and grandparents.

I will close this article as always with a plea for your contact information. If you do not receive email or snail mail from me it is because I do not have your contact information. Due to privacy issues the Nation cannot provide me

with that information. Send information to [rslavin@potawatomi.org](mailto:rslavin@potawatomi.org) or Roy Slavin 6730 Tower Dr., Kansas City, Mo. 64151. Or call toll free 1-888-741-5767.

Igwien (heartfelt thanks)

Netatgtege (Roy)

*Bozho Nikanek, (Hello my friends),*

Family Reunion Festival just passed and what a great time it was. If you have never been to Festival, I encourage you to make every effort to attend. Festival begins on Friday and ends on Sunday. I don't have space in this article to list all the activities but I believe there is something for everyone.

Competitions include golf tournaments, a pistol shooting match, an archery competition, softball tournament, an adult 3-on-3 basketball tournament and art competitions. Classes



## District 2 - Eva Marie Carney

*turned down the wrong road as the occupants, who included descendants of the Potawatomi who were part of the original forced removal in 1838, were nearing the end of the Trail after journeying for a week from Indiana to Kansas. This caravan was in search of the Sugar Creek area near Osawatomie, Kansas. That's where, in 1838, the Potawatomi had been forced to settle at the end of their 600-mile walk. The tribal members were marched at gunpoint, with their leaders locked in a jail wagon, out of their homes and land to a place unknown to them. A number of deaths from sickness and exposure occurred along the way.*

*When the survivors arrived it was November and very cold. Promises of food and shelter at the end of the Trail proved empty. Oral history has it that the only shelter they found was shallow caves. The Potawatomi hung animal skins over the entrances to block the wind and snowy weather. Many*

*more died during the decade they inhabited the Sugar Creek area until the group was removed again to eastern Kansas, near Topeka.*

*A missionary priest, Father Benjamin Petit, had come from St. Louis in 1838 to minister to the Potawatomi. He prayed with them along the way until he, like many of the Potawatomi, became ill and walked on at the age of 27. His diary of the Potawatomi daily travels greatly contributed to what we know of that dire time in Potawatomi history.*

*Some have declared Father Petit worthy of sainthood for his dedication to the spiritual well-being of the Potawatomi. However, miracles related to sainthood must be documented before that status is bestowed by the Catholic Church. According to some, the story we relay here demonstrates such a miracle indeed occurred.*

*Beginning in 1988, descendants of those who endured the Trail began retracing the route. Shirley Willard, a retired schoolteacher and local historian in Rochester, Indiana, organized the first modern caravan and interested persons decided to repeat the trek every five years. The 1993 caravan was just the second to follow the Trail. Shirley's husband, Bill, helped to map out the route that began near*



*Potawannabee logo, courtesy of David Reece (Ga.)*

*Bozho nikanek/Hello friends,*

**Another prize-winning entry in the District 2 Story Contest:** I hope you enjoyed Suzie's Gretler's story, "Grandmother and the Library," in the June column – it is posted to my website if you missed it. Here's another interesting story, submitted by father and daughter Bob and Janet Pearl from District 1. The Pearls received a book about Potawatomi artist Woody Crumbo as their prize.

### The Wrong Road Leads to a Miracle on the Trail of Death

*It was a rainy late September night in 1993, the year of the big flood on the Mississippi River. The raging water had destroyed billions of dollars of property and crops throughout the Midwestern United States that summer. A commemorative caravan was retracing the Potawatomi Trail of Death on the original route taken 155 years before.*

*The group of vehicles*



*2015 District #2 Hand Game Team members David and Owen Reece (Ga.).*

*their home (the couple was instrumental in organizing community groups to place memorial markers along the route the Potawatomi travelled, and some of these markers have been funded by the Citizen Potawatomi government).*

*That rainy night in 1993, Bill Willard was leading the caravan as the dusk turned into inky darkness and the group approached the swollen Sugar Creek. The location is desolate and direction becomes muddled in that place. As the group*

*of vehicles inched along the Trail, the terrain grew more muddy and waterlogged.*

*Bill Wamego, a tribal elder; George Godfrey, a professor; Susan Campbell, an historical author, and members of the Pearl family, who descended from Equa-ke-sec, a young girl who walked the original Trail, were among the travelers. That young girl, the Pearls' great-grandmother, survived the Trail and, once grown, married an Irishman, James Slavin, and settled with him*



District 2 - Eva Marie Carney continued...

near St. Marys, Kansas. That's where the Pearl siblings, including Jim, Bob and Sister Virginia, were born and raised. Another descendent, Tom Hamilton, was coaching the caravan along the route by CB radio.

As the caravan proceeded that evening along the increasingly-impassable road, a pickup truck came into view, engulfed by the rising water in the creek. There had been a flash flood and the vehicle was trapped. In the bed of the truck stood a man waving his arms.

Bill Willard stopped the caravan. Some of the men waded to the disabled vehicle to bring the stranger to safety. The slight man, shivering from the damp, was wrapped in a warm blanket and bundled into one of the RVs in the caravan.

He was, as it turned out, Paxico Wabaunsee, 77 years old. He was frigid from four hours of exposure to the weather, afraid of snakes and did not know how to swim. As the water rose, he fired his gun four times in an effort to get someone's attention, but no one had heard him in the desolate area. He had resorted to huddling in the bed of his truck, terrified for his life, and had begun praying for a rescue party to appear. Miraculously, he saw the line of headlights coming and mistook the dark shapes for a group of boats approaching in the water.

When Bill Wamego went to meet the man, Bill Wamego's face reflected amazement. The survivor stared back, also stunned. "That's my cousin," Bill Wamego declared. "I haven't seen him in 30 years." The men joyfully embraced as they renewed their acquaintance.

Bill Wamego's cousin, known as "Packie," now in tow, the caravan obtained further CB radio instruction from Tom Hamilton as to the correct route, backtracked and found the right road to the Sugar Creek memorial park campsite.

So what was Packie doing on the wrong road to the Trail of Death? A resident of Mayetta, Kansas, he had read a brief newspaper article about the Potawatomi caravan coming to Sugar Creek. His curiosity led him to set out for the Trail but he got off track, a move that nearly caused him his life.

Many who witnessed his rescue said it was a miracle that the caravan likewise ended up on that same



2015 Grand entry photo, including Eva Carney (Va.), Bob Whistler (Texasx), Beverly Hughes (Okla.), and Sister Virginia Pearl (Kan.).

wrong road that night. One thing is clear: Packie's fervent prayers for help were answered in the face of nearly impossible odds.

It's been more than two decades since the cousins'

family) with several family namings, have lunch with Vice-Chairman Capps and a few other legislators at the Nation's new fry bread restaurant, share dinner with the legislators and some spouses at the Nation's

[com/ojindiskwe](http://com/ojindiskwe) (this links to my Facebook page, but you don't have to be "on" facebook, or to "join" facebook, to look at the photos). I hope to visit with you in Shawnee next June - Juneaus will be among the



2015 District #2 Hand Game Team: Sheila Kelly (Fla.), Deanna Quinn (Tenn.), Dixie Quinn (Ark.), Lyle Simmons (La.), Kris and Sarah Sheldon (Ga.)

surprise reunion. Both men have since walked on to a greater place. But the story of the Miracle on the Trail continues to live on, and we hope that it will continue to be told. It is ageless proof of the tremendous power of a Potawatomi's faith in prayer.

Storytellers' Note: The historical commemorative caravan has scheduled its next trip along the Trail of Death in September 2018.

District 2 News

**Family Festival Recap:** The Festival weekend was fun and meaningful. I was honored to assist Ralph Bazhaw (N.C./Bergeron

new Brazilian steakhouse, and visit with many folks, including the spirited members of this year's hand games teams (you will know them in the photos by their white team caps; both teams went to the second round), and with Juneau family members, including brother Dave Carney and his family and cousins Ed Schwartz, and Bev Holly and Mark Goodson and their families. A favorite moment was catching sight of Georgian Victoria Reece's husband David, sporting his "Potawannabee/Georgia Chapter" t-shirt (see photo).

Many other photos are available at <http://tinyurl>.

2016 honored families, which also include the Clardy, Frapp, Kahdot, Pappan, Crumbo and Muller families. For 2017, we will specially recognize the Bourassa, Burnett, Melot, Navarre, Peltier, Wamego, Willmet, and Vieux families. Honored families have reserved spots in the Roundhouse for family visiting, and are specially recognized during the Saturday night dancing, and given opportunities to tape family stories at the Cultural Heritage Center and sit for group photos.

**Academic achievements:** We have another District 2 CPN lawyer! In May, Kathy Suellentrop graduated with

her J.D. from Georgetown University. Kathy earlier earned a B.S and Masters of Accounting from the University of Kansas. She is one smart cookie and a lovely person. She lives in Washington, works for the International Finance Corporation and always makes her parents, Frank and Laura (O'Connor) Suellentrop, and the Navarre family, proud. Speaking of smart cookies, the CPN has -- at least -- two students entering medical school this fall: Austen Roselius (Univ. of Minnesota, M.D. program) and my niece, Susanna Basappa (Mayo Clinic, M.D. /Ph.D. program). Austen and Susanna both were part of the Potawatomi Leadership Program class of 2011. During the Festival I had a chance to visit with Austen, who reminded me about a terrific health fields scholarship program run by the Indian Health Service. Please share this booklet of information with any college/graduate school-age student who might be eligible/interested: <http://www.ihs.gov/scholarship/handbooks/studenthandbook.pdf>.

**Fri., October 9, 2015:** We are invited to a tour of the archives of the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, NMAI Cultural Resources Center, 4220 Silver Hill Road, Suitland, Maryland 20746. Our tour is from 1:30-3:30 or 4:00 p.m., but we'll start with a group lunch at 12:30 p.m. at Sweet Dee's, in the Resource Center Complex. During the tour we will view Potawatomi beadwork, weavings, ceremonial objects, and more. Space is highly limited, so reserve yours today.

**Sat., November 14, 2015:** We will celebrate fall with crafting and a pot-luck Feast at the District 2 office. I will provide craft supplies and instruction, two main courses (one vegan), and drinks. Please save the date - and it is never too early to RSVP. I expect to host more meetings this fall and winter outside the D.C. area and will share plans as they develop.

I look forward to hearing from you! *Migwetch!* thank you for the honor of representing you.

Legislator Eva Marie Carney *Ojindiskwe* (Bluebirdwoman) [ecarney@potawatomi.org](mailto:ecarney@potawatomi.org) CPN Legislative District #2 701 8th Street NW, #340 Washington, D.C. 20001 Toll free 1-866-961-6988 [evamariecarney.com](http://evamariecarney.com)





## District 3 - Bob Whistler

*Bozho Nikan (Hello friend)*

For those of you who were not able to attend Family Festival, you missed a very good event. In addition to the routine programs we have had in the past, there was an archery event for the children as well as for the adults. I believe about 30 children participated with the youngest being around five or six years old. For anyone that has an interest in this sport, I urge you to start practicing for next year. Those participating this year were very talented and accurate bow people in both the adult and children competition. Cash awards are given to the top prize winners by our Vice Chairman, Linda Capps.

During the time spent at Family Festival, a number of us had the opportunity to see the new sushi restaurant that is about ready to open at The Grand Hotel Casino Resort. It looks great and if you're in the area in the near future and like this type of food, give it a try! The facility also recently opened Flame Brazilian Steakhouse, which is a Brazilian restaurant where they come around with skewers of various kinds of cooked meat. I had dinner there, and found the leg of lamb and lamb chops outstanding. They have roughly twelve to fourteen different cuts of meat on the skewers that they bring around and serve you right at the table. If you have never tied this kind of dining, I highly recommend you give it a try. They continue serving, until you signal that the feast is over!

Grand Entry again was a real treat! We are seeing more and more of our citizens making their own regalia and getting involved in the dancing. From past experience, it takes time to make your own or to even find someone to help you in getting something made. As I mentioned a few months ago, a ribbon shirt or sash is all that is needed for males, and a shawl for females. All three of these items are available for purchase at FireLake Gift Shop inside the Cultural Heritage Center or online at [giftshop.potawatomi.org](http://giftshop.potawatomi.org). There were also vendors at Family Festival with booths, and several were selling ribbon shirts, shawls, and sashes at very reasonable prices.

I had the pleasure of naming



*Nancy Cleveland naming daughter Lori Cleveland Vann.*

that receive a name, become a namer themselves. When we have a large family, once one of the eldest is named, they then may perform the naming of other members in their family. I have included a photo of Nancy naming

Absentee Shawnee grounds. Justin Neely, our language director, held a spiritual song session in Potawatomi after the church service. He distributed a CD containing seven songs along with the words on separate sheets.



*The Macon family.*

nine members of the Macon family. At the San Marcos area meeting held in 2014, Nancy Cleveland asked me if I would consider naming members of the Macon family during 2015. They followed the protocol and the naming was held on Sunday morning at Family Festival. I have included a photo of the family just after their namings were completed. The Chairman has previously suggested that our naming have those

her daughter Lori Cleveland Vann shortly after I named Nancy. While at General council, I had a couple of constituents inquire about being named. We can do that in the coming months if you send me an email or call. I will then send you the documents on the protocol and a copy of the form used to develop the name.

After the naming on Sunday, there is a service at the small church next to the

He plans to put these on [www.potawatomi.org](http://www.potawatomi.org) for downloading.

The songs include, "How Great Thou Art", two versions of "Amazing Grace" and "Will the Circle Be Unbroken."

This is another opportunity to learn some of our native tongue.

After our visit to Shawnee for Family Festival, we hold

a legislative meeting the following Monday. At this years meeting, I was gifted two paperbacks written by George Godfrey. Both of the books are about *Watchekee* (Overseer), a Potawatomi female living in the period (1810 - 1873). The titles of the two books are "Watchekee (Overseer) Walking in Two Cultures" and "Once a Grass Widow: Watchekee's Destiny."

These two books provide lots of information about the daily life in that period. I found them very good reading. For those of you looking for more history about our past, especially if you are a descendant of the Barsaw or Bergeron families, I urge you to consider reading these two paperbacks, which are available at FireLake Gift Shop.

Before closing, I wanted to let you know that I am planning to hold the north Texas area meeting on Sat., October 24. The south Texas meeting is planned for Sat., November 14, possibly in College Station. Postcards announcing the details will be sent out in mid-September.

The time I spend on Tribal matters is personally very rewarding to me. I am honored and proud to be your elected representative. I thank you deeply for affording me this privilege and honor. I am here to serve you and assist if you find you need help on a tribal matter. Either call or email me and I will get back to you as quickly as possible.

*Migwetch (thank you)*

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## Hownikan

1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, Oklahoma

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Address changes should be sent to: Citizen Potawatomi Tribal Rolls, 1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801.





District 4 - Jon Boursaw

**Good work does not go unnoticed:** I recently received a very nice note from a Tribal member expressing her appreciation for the work being performed by our Senior Support Network staff in Rossville. In her note she said:

“Thank you for the all the wonderful services that the Rossville Center and the home health nurses have

provided to my parents...It is such an incredible blessing and service to have Tracy and Pam call on my dad to assist with anything he needs. It has helped him maintain a tremendous quality of life. In addition, my mother loves to attend the dinners (potluck luncheons) at Rossville. It gives her a wonderful outing to look forward to...”

This is an example of the comments I regularly receive regarding the services being provided to our Tribal elders by Tracy and Pam. If they can be of assistance to you or members of your family, don’t hesitate to contact them at 785-584-6171. The Elders Potlucks are held in the CPN Community Center in Rossville on the second Friday of every month. Please

call the Senior Support Staff for details. I have forwarded the above mentioned note to Tim Tallchief, Director of CPN Health Services in Shawnee, Okla.

**American Indian Veterans – The Untold Story:** Roy Slavin, District 1 representative, and I will attend this conference being held in Wheaton, Ill. on August 29-30. The objective of the conference is to discuss how the individual stories and experiences of Native American veterans can be captured and made available for others to hear and see. Roy and I want to tell those attending from other tribes what the Citizen Potawatomi Nation has already done through its efforts to record veteran interviews on DVDs

and the display cases and pictures on the Tribal Wall of Honor.

**Gathering of the Potawatomi Nations:** I will be attending the Gathering hosted by the Forest County Potawatomi in Carter, Wisc. on August 13-16. As a result I will not be in the office during the week of August 10-14. If all goes well I should be in the office Tues., August 18.

**Put Sept. 19, 2015 on your calendars:** A District 4 meeting will held in the CPN Community Center in Rossville on Sept. 19, 2015.

**Put Oct. 31, 2015 on your calendars:** A District 4 meeting will be held on Oct. 31, 2015 at the Indian Center

in Wichita at 10 a.m.

**Honored to serve you:** It is an honor to serve as your district representative. Thank you to those members who have shared their thoughts and opinions on the issues of the Nation.

*Migwetch,*  
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District 8 - Dave Carney

*Bozho,* friends

The Family Festival was very fun and well attended this year. As we have in past years, our district fielded a good looking team for hand games Friday night. This year we had members from Seattle, Olympia and Anchorage. I also had my cousin, Johnny Schwartz fill out the team, though he lives in southern California.

We were also represented well in the archery contest, in which Ginger Blackmon from

Alaska took first place. We were blessed with relatively cool temperatures in the mid 80s for the Saturday night Grand Entry and subsequent dance competition. Honored families this year were Acton, Bergeron, Curely, Delonais, Greemore, Levier, Nagahnquet and Pambogo.

As we continue to build the District 8 community we have lots of interaction with Indian tribes that are indigenous to the Northwest. Two tribes that have been to our Fall Feasts are the Chinook Tribe from the lower Columbia River area and the Duwamish Tribe in the Seattle area in Washington. Ironically, both are struggling for federal recognition.

On July 2, 2015 Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn issued

final determinations for two petitioners under the existing Federal Acknowledgment process. The decisions include a final determination to acknowledge the petitioner known as the Pamunkey Indian Tribe (Petitioner #323) as a federally recognized Indian tribe, and a final determination on remand to decline acknowledgment for the petitioner known as the Duwamish Tribal Organization (DTO) (Petitioner #25.) To Quote:

“The Pamunkey Indian Tribe, located in Virginia, was found to have met all seven mandatory criteria for Federal acknowledgment as set forth in 25 CFR Part 83.7. This is the second federal acknowledgement to take place during the Obama Administration.”

“This work reflects the most

solemn responsibilities of the United States,” Washburn said. “Our professional historians, anthropologists, and genealogists spent thousands of hours of staff time researching and applying our rigorous acknowledgment criteria to these petitions.”

The Duwamish did not fair as well. The department also issued a final determination on remand declining to recognize the Duwamish Tribal Organization. The department reached the same conclusion in September 2001, declining to acknowledge the DTO following an evaluation under its 1978 regulations. The U.S. District Court in western Washington vacated that decision in 2013 and remanded it back to the department for review under 1994 revisions to the

regulations or “explain why it declines to do so.”

This final determination on remand concludes the administrative process. The DTO petitioner does not meet the requirements for Federal acknowledgment as an Indian tribe under either the 1978 or 1994 regulations. The DTO, which first formed in 1925, is headquartered in Seattle, Wash.

Duwamish chair Cecile Hansen declared today that they will continue to fight.

In District 8 news, we will hold our November Fall Feast at their Long House in the city that bears the name of one of their chiefs, Seattle.

*Bama pi,*  
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District 10 - David Barrett

*Bozho,*

Looking back at our Festival, we had the most enjoyable weather in a long time. It was a busy week and hope everyone enjoyed it as much as I did.

However, I always look forward to going to the Gathering of Potawatomi Nations which will be hosted by Forest County Potawatomi in Carter, Wis.

this year from Aug.13-16, 2015. There will be eight other Potawatomi tribes in attendance.

Just a note to refresh your memory of the other Potawatomi tribes are:

- Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Oklahoma
- Forest County Potawatomi, Wisconsin
- Hannahville Indian Community, Michigan
- Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi (Gun Lake), Michigan
- Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi, Michigan
- Pokagon Band of

Potawatomi, Michigan

- Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, Kansas

There are two First Nations in Canada as well:

- Walpole Island First Nation, Walpole Island, Ontario, (an unceded island between the USA and Canada)
- Wasauksing First Nation, Parry Island, Ontario

My favorite time is attending the All-Conference Meeting during the annual gathering where all the nation’s leaders discuss the problems they are having with the U.S. government, internal issues tribes are experiencing with different programs, accomplishments of each tribe through sharing this

information with all the other nations and listening to what each leader has to say in order to gain their knowledge to share with our own respective Nation.

Being a Citizen Potawatomi Veteran, it is a grand sight to be among all of the Potawatomi nations when we bring in the eagle staffs and flags of each individual tribe at Grand Entry.

Also at the Gathering I allow myself time to really enjoy being there. One thing I have tried to do in this regard is to sign up to participate in one or more of the classes that are being offered during the gathering.

I enjoy learning and observing how different groups of Potawatomi have

evolved since the late 1880s near Blackwell and Wabeno as well as in the Carter and Crandon areas of Wisconsin.

By pursuing a diverse set of business models, the Forest County Potawatomi of today are the largest employer in Forest County, as are the Citizen Potawatomi Nation in Pottawatomie County.

It goes without saying that it is an honor to serve you and our great Nation.

*Migwetch*  
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## District 11 - Lisa Kraft

### The History of Citizen Potawatomi Health Aids and Recent Amendments

The history of the Citizen Potawatomi Health Aids fund began in 1976 with the settlement of Potawatomi Tribal land claims by the Indian Claims Commission. The Indian Claims Commission, or ICC, was created in 1946 to settle land claims between American Indian nations and the United States. The Potawatomi tribes collectively received this settlement for a portion of traditional lands taken from them throughout Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan. The ICC split the settlement money five ways between the Citizen Band, Prairie Band, Hannahville, Forest County and the scattered descendants. The Citizen Band received the largest portion due to having the largest membership (1,718). The Prairie Band had 809 members, Hannahville 457, and Forest County 272.

As part of the 1976 settlement, the Citizen Potawatomi Business Committee passed Resolution #77-3 formally creating the Health Aids and Higher Education Scholarship trust funds and/or member benefits.

Eighty percent of the settlement money was paid to members in per capita payments and 20 percent

(\$36,000) was put into two special benefit programs where the principal would be held in trust for the entire tribe. With only the fund interest to be used for these programs - not the principal, these two benefits have endured for 39 years almost completely by Tribal revenues. These programs came into being the same year our Tribe was awarded trust title to the lands between Shawnee and Tecumseh.

The CPN Health Aids Program provides annual reimbursement, up to \$750 per member, for prosthetics and “appropriate substitutions” such as dentures, eyewear, hearing aids, and mobility aids. From 1982 through February 2015, the Nation processed 26,989 applications from Tribal members for a total of \$6,863,150.

That averages to \$208,000 a year.

In comparison, we spent over \$4 million alone last year for 3,092 college and/or vocational scholarships.

In the years of administering these two programs, Citizen Potawatomi Business Committees have amended the Health Aids Program seven times by resolution and one time administratively, to my knowledge. The Business Committee *first amended* the Health Aids program in 1977 to open program benefits to “all tribal members whether urban or rural, young or old, no matter what the blood quantum...treated in a like manner with equal access...” not just the 1,718 enrolled members.

The *second change* came in 1978 (Resolution # 78-32)

confirming the health aids and scholarship programs were open to all enrolled members regardless of location.

Formal Health Aids guidelines were adopted in a *third change* to the program before the General Council on June 24, 1978. A *fourth amendment* was made at a General Council meeting on December 5, 1981 (Resolution #82-23) to budget the annual program funding and make some adjustments to the guidelines. In 1989, a *fifth resolution* (#90-02) requested a drawdown of \$40,000 in interest on the original trust funds.

Remember in 1989, our constitution allowed for the blood quantum criteria to be dropped and opened Tribal enrollment to descendants of enrolled members. This is the year I was enrolled with the Tribe by a very active grandmother, Ara Mae O’Bright O’Connor.

Twelve years later, the Citizen Potawatomi Business Committee amended the Health Aids program a *sixth time*, in 2003, via Resolution #04-7. This time the Business Committee put a restriction on the Health Aids eligibility. This change made the Health Aids program available only to tribal members born before December 31, 1971. It also created an Indian blood exemption. If a member had at least 1/8 blood degree, he or she would be eligible for the Health Aids benefit regardless of when they were born.

*Approximately 12,500 tribal members are eligible for annual Health Aids reimbursement, but less*

*than 1,000 members a year request assistance.*

Then on May 31, 2012, the 16-member Legislature approved a *seventh change* to the program. Resolution 12-69-HHS extended Health Aids benefits to members born before December 31, 1976. This allowed another 2,000 members to become eligible for the Health Aids reimbursement benefit.

Unfortunately, an administrative change to this long-standing benefit was made outside of a resolution. This happened over a year ago. Oklahoma members utilizing Health Aids reimbursements are now required to get their glasses through the tribe in Shawnee at a reimbursement of no more than \$250 every other year. The program capacity of our new optometrist is off to a great start, but is not entirely in place yet. Members are waiting upwards to three months for an appointment rather than being allowed to use their established eye doctors. All Tribal members utilizing Health Aids are now limited to the eyewear reimbursement ceiling and contacts are no longer reimbursable.

From March 2014 to March 2015 with the administrative changes, there have only been 273 funded Health Aids eyewear benefits in Oklahoma totaling \$63,941. The average cost of glasses was \$234. For 125 members living outside of Oklahoma it was a total of \$24,265.

The number of eyewear reimbursements to outside Oklahoma tribal members is down from 658 reimbursements a year earlier. Members in Kansas,

Texas and California make up the majority of members utilizing the Health Aids eyewear benefits outside of Oklahoma.

As a Tribal leader and Tribal member, I would encourage you to write your representative and voice your opinion on these changes. I have confidence that our legislature’s health committee will take a closer look at the administrative changes before our annual budget meeting later this month. Changes to these 39-year-old member benefits should only be made via resolution by consideration of the legislature. I firmly believe that all changes made by the legislature for Health Aids and Higher Education Scholarships should go before the vote of the Tribal membership at General Council since the principal of these funds are rooted in the Tribal trust.

No words can be spoken about the Health Aids Program without appreciation to the very dear, late Joyce Abel, the Health Aids Program Director for the majority of its existence. She was so proud of her talented grandson, Chris Abel. Joyce would also be pleased for Amber Brewer to be continuing the work she so loved.

As always, I am thinking Potawatomi.

Lisa Kraft (*Zibikwe*)  
Oklahoma Tribal Legislator  
(District 11 - Statewide)  
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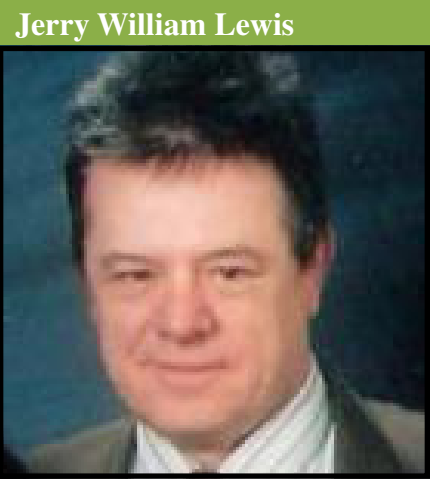


Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s Employment and Training Program would like to thank the Central Oklahoma Juvenile Center workers for donating time to fill more than 200 backpacks for the 2015 back-to-school distribution.



For eligibility information for those residing in CPN jurisdiction please contact CPN Employment & Training at 405.598.0797.





Jerry W. Lewis lived a full and colorful life for nearly 76 years. He loved the United States Marine Corps and had unbridled passion for the Potawatomi people. He was a strong friend and ally to all Native peoples and causes. He was a teacher of many, as a professional and in general life. His teaching impact touched people in the Chicago Public Schools, South Suburban College, Governors State University and Chicago Heights School District 170. He enjoyed teaching sports as well, coaching Little League in Midlothian, Ill. and wrestling in Palos Heights, Ill. An avid student, he attended schools and universities in Chicago, Harvey, Ill., University Park, Ill., Ann Arbor, Mich. and State College, Penn. He was a Bremen Brave through and through, established in 1953.

As the fourth of 11 children, he learned at an early age that hard work and dedication to task are important tools for getting along in a wild, ever-changing world. These traits are woven into lessons taught to the people whose lives and paths were touched by his strong presence. Some of the many left to continue on their journeys include his wife of 54 years, Anita (Jazo), AnnMarie Cobb and her husband David, Jerry Lewis Jr. and his wife Joni, grandson Timothy Schoeckel and his friend Lindsay. There are siblings Kay, Gwendolyn, Robert, Dorothy, Maida, Dale, Lester, Keith and Cheryl. There are numerous in-laws, nieces and nephews descending from the Lewis and Jazo families. He now joins his parents and his brother Mike.

A celebration of life was held on July 19, 2015 with military honors at the Crete Township Fire Protection District Station 1 in Crete, Ill.

In lieu of flowers, consider donations to causes that benefit Native peoples. Have good thoughts and be kind to someone today.



Ruth Lavern Lewis, 84, was born on Nov. 30, 1930 in Shawnee, Okla. to the late E.B. Hardin and Blanch (Bergeron) Hardin. Ruth passed away on June 1, 2015 at her residence Wilson, Okla. residence. Private family services will be held at a later date.

She was a resident of the Ardmore and Wilson areas for the past 53 years after moving here from Shawnee. Ruth was raised in Shawnee and graduated from Wyannet High School and then the NEFF Business School. While living in Ardmore she had worked at the Daube's Department Store and with the Seventh Day Adventist Hospital in the accounting departments. Ruth enjoyed crocheting.

Survivors include her son, Steve Lewis and wife Deanna; daughter Sherry Loper and husband Dennis; grandsons, Stephen Richard Lewis and Matt O'Dell; granddaughter, Maudie Loper; step-granddaughter, Alina Goldsmith; step-grandson, Grant Goldsmith; three great-granddaughters, Tyla and Allie Lewis and Aurora O'Dell; step great-granddaughter, Lillie O'Dell and a sister, Laura Oaks. Preceded in death by her parents; husband Bill; brother, Bruce Hardin; great grandson, Stephen Lewis III; sister Mary Ann McMahan.

Condolences may be made to the family online at [www.hdouglasfuneralhome.com](http://www.hdouglasfuneralhome.com)



Patricia (Pat) Reynolds, 84, passed away November 21, 2014. Pat was born December 7, 1929 in Asher, Okla. Pat graduated from high school in 1946 and began working at China Lake Naval Station in 1947.

Pat married at the age of 20 and raised two sons: John Alan and David Lynn.

In 1956, Pat began working at MEVA Corp. She later transferred to Hughs Aircraft Corp. and retired after 34 years.

She began her career as an executive secretary and retired as an engineering section manager.

Pat lived a long and prosperous life and is survived by her two sons, John Alan and David Lynn. She has entered the Pearly Gates of Heaven and shines upon us all.



A Funeral Prayer

*Hau ndenwémagnek*  
Ho my relatives

*Ébyé yak shote gnom*  
We have come here today

*Éwi nesh myé yak ode wdenwéma*  
To lay our brother to rest

*Ngom she épam sét ode*  
Today he walks

*Ga wje zhyé wat gi gambojek*  
Among those who have passed on

*I yé i ébgednoyak ode ngemwen*  
That is why we offer this song

*Émno shketot wa je zhyat ibe shpemsegok*  
That his journey will go well where he goes above

*Iw énaj moyan*  
That's all I have to say

A Potawatomi prayer for a specific loved one who has walked on. By Don Perrot

## CPN burial assistance through Tribal Rolls

The \$2,000 CPN Burial Assistance Fund is automatically available to all enrolled CPN members. You may fill out a burial assistance fund form if you would like for us to keep it on file in case of any change in resolutions.

Please note: Once a CPN Tribal member has passed, the Tribal Rolls office must

be notified in order for CPN to provide burial funding. Information and instructions for the burial process will be sent to the next of kin and will be discussed then.

For more information please call Tribal Rolls at 405-878-5830 or email [CClark@Potawatomi.org](mailto:CClark@Potawatomi.org).